

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): An apparatus comprising:

 a first processor coupled to a communications channel device, the communications device capable of receiving and transmitting information to a video-on-demand (VOD) service provider;

 a VOD content decoder coupled to the first processor;

 a video and audio formatting processor coupled to the first processor and the content decoder; and

 an index memory coupled to the first processor,

 wherein the index memory stores a plurality of VOD program segment representations of at least one partial VOD program content based on at least one user selectable recording of the at least one partial VOD program content where the at least one partial VOD program content has already been viewed, and each of said plurality of VOD program segment representations is an identifier identifying a VOD program, a date the VOD program originally aired, a start time of a user selectable recording of a VOD program segment and a stop time of the user selectable recording of the VOD program segment.

Claim 2 (Original): The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the first processor receives information from a user controller.

Claim 3 (Original): The apparatus of claim 2, wherein the user controller is one of an infrared remote controller, a keyboard, a computer mouse and a voice activated controller.

Claim 4 (Currently Amended): The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the plurality of VOD program segment representations comprises an encoded identifier including a content identification, a content segment start time, and a content segment stop time.

Claim 5 (Previously Presented): The apparatus of claim 4, wherein the content identification is one of received from a VOD service provider and customized by a user.

Claim 6 (Previously Presented): The apparatus of claim 5, wherein the content segment start time and the content segment stop time are selected by a user based on a user selected recording start time and recording stop time.

Claim 7 (Original): The apparatus of claim 4, wherein one of the plurality of program segment representations requires 1 to 10 bytes of memory.

Claim 8 (Original): The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the index memory is a non-volatile read and write memory (NVRAM).

Claim 9 (Currently Amended): A system comprising:

a video-on-demand (VOD) service provider coupled to a plurality of set-top-box (STB) units, wherein each of the plurality of STB units comprises

a first processor coupled to a communications channel device, the communications device capable of receiving and transmitting information to a VOD service provider;

a VOD content decoder coupled to the first processor;

a video and audio formatting processor coupled to the first processor and the content decoder; and

an index memory coupled to the first processor,

wherein the index memory stores a plurality of VOD program segment representations of at least one partial VOD program content based on at least one user selectable recording of the at least one partial VOD program content where the at least one partial VOD program content has already been viewed, and each of the plurality of STB units are capable of communicating with each other, and each of said plurality of VOD program segment representations is an identifier identifying a VOD program, a date the VOD program originally aired, a start time of a user selectable recording of a VOD program segment and a stop time of the user selectable recording of the VOD program segment.

Claim 10 (Original): The system of claim 9, wherein the processor receives information from a user controller, the VOD service provider, and other processors located at different venues.

Claim 11 (Original): The system of claim 10, wherein the user controller is one of an infrared remote controller, a keyboard, a computer mouse, and voice activated controller.

Claim 12 (Original): The system of claim 9, wherein the plurality of VOD program segment representations comprises a content identification, a content segment start time, and a content segment stop time.

Claim 13 (Original): The system of claim 12, wherein the content identification is one of received from a VOD service provider and selected by a user.

Claim 14 (Original): The system of claim 12, wherein one of the plurality of program segment representations requires 1 to 10 bytes of memory.

Claim 15 (Original): The system of claim 9, wherein the index memory is a non-volatile read and write memory (NVRAM).

Claim 16 (Original): The system of claim 9, wherein a user can send a VOD program segment representation as an electronic mail (email) attachment to another set-top-box unit located at a different venue.

Claim 17 (Currently Amended): A method comprising:

ordering at least one video-on-demand (VOD) program from a VOD service provider from a first set-top-box (STB) unit;

playing at least one VOD program;

selecting a start and stop time for recording a representation of a segment of the at least one VOD program, wherein the start and stop time are user selectable;

converting a VOD program identifier of the at least one VOD program to a text representation;

one of converting the text representation of the VOD program identifier of the at least one VOD program into a unique encoded digital representation and receiving a unique encoded digital representation from the VOD service provider;

converting the start and stop time for a segment of the at least one VOD program to a digital representation; and

storing the VOD program identifier encoded digital representation and the start and stop digital representation as a single identifier in an index memory.

Claim 18 (Original): The method of claim 17, further comprising converting the stored VOD program identifier encoded digital representation and the start and stop digital representation of the segment of the at least one VOD program to a graphics representation, wherein a user can select the graphics representation to order the segment of the at least one VOD program.

Claim 19 (Original): The method of claim 18, further comprising
attaching the stored VOD program identifier encoded digital representation and the start and stop digital representation in an electronic mail (email), and
sending the email to a user located at a different venue.

Claim 20 (Original): The method of claim 19, further comprising,
receiving the email, storing the attached video-on-demand (VOD) program identifier encoded digital representation and the start and stop digital representation in a second set-top-box (STB) unit,
converting the VOD program identifier encoded digital representation and the start and stop digital representation to a graphics representation,
selecting the graphics representation of the VOD program identifier encoded digital representation and the start and stop digital representation to order the segment of the at least one VOD program,
receiving the VOD program segment on the second STB unit,
decoding the VOD program segment, and
formatting the VOD program segment so a user can play the VOD program segment.

Claim 21 (Currently Amended): A program storage device readable by a machine comprising instructions that cause the machine to:

order at least one video-on-demand (VOD) program from a VOD service provider from a first set-top-box (STB) unit;

convert a VOD program identifier of the at least one VOD program to a text representation;

one of convert the text representation of the VOD program identifier of the at least one VOD program into a unique encoded digital representation and receive a unique encoded digital representation from the VOD service provider;

convert a start and stop time for at least one segment of the at least one VOD program to a digital representation, where the start and stop time for the at least one segment of the at least one VOD program are user selectable and are based on a stop and a start time of a recorded representation of the at least one segment of the at least one VOD program where the at least one segment of the at least one VOD program has already been viewed; and

store the VOD program identifier encoded digital representation and the start and stop digital representation as a single identifier in an index memory.

Claim 22 (Original): The program storage device of claim 21, wherein the instructions further cause the machine to convert the stored VOD program identifier encoded digital representation and the start and stop digital representation of the segment of the at least one VOD program to a graphics representation, wherein a user can select the graphics representation to order the segment of the at least one VOD program.

Claim 23 (Original): The program storage device of claim 21, wherein the instructions further cause the machine to

attach the stored VOD program identifier encoded digital representation and the start and stop digital representation in an electronic mail (email), and

send the email to a user located at a different venue.

Claim 24 (Original): The program storage device of claim 23, wherein the instructions further cause the machine to

receive the email, store the attached VOD program identifier encoded digital representation and the start and stop digital representation in a second set-top-box (STB) unit,

convert the VOD program identifier encoded digital representation and the start and stop digital representation to a graphics representation, receive the VOD program segment on the second STB unit, decode the VOD program segment, and format the VOD program segment so a user can play the VOD program segment.

Claim 25 (Currently Amended): A apparatus comprising:

a first processor coupled to a communications channel device, the communications device capable of receiving and transmitting information to a video-on-demand (VOD) service provider;
a VOD content decoder coupled to the first processor;
a video and audio formatting processor coupled to the first processor and the content decoder; and
an index memory coupled to the first processor,

wherein the index memory stores a plurality of VOD program segment representations of at least one partial VOD program content based on at least one recording of the at least one partial VOD program content where the at least one partial VOD program content has already been viewed, and a user can send at least one VOD program segment representation of the plurality of VOD program segment representations of at least one partial VOD program as an electronic mail (email) attachment to another communications device located at a different venue, and each of said plurality of VOD program segment representations is an identifier identifying a VOD program, a date the VOD program originally aired, a start time of a user selectable recording of a VOD program segment and a stop time of the user selectable recording of the VOD program segment.

Claim 26 (Previously Presented): The apparatus of claim 25, wherein the first processor receives information from a user controller.

Claim 27 (Previously Presented): The apparatus of claim 26, wherein the user controller is one of an infrared remote controller, a keyboard, a computer mouse and a voice activated controller.

Claim 28 (Previously Presented): The apparatus of claim 25, wherein the plurality of VOD program segment representations comprises a content identification, a content segment start time, and a content segment stop time.

Claim 29 (Previously Presented): The apparatus of claim 28, wherein the content identification is one of received from a VOD service provider and customized by a user.